

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 TRSE-00 EB-11 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 GAC-01 RSR-01 COME-00 /095 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0704

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2002

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, AS

SUBJ: TREASURER CREAN' S VIEWS ON HIS TRIP TO U. S.

AND PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS VOTE OF SENATOR WHEELDON

1. LAST NIGHT TREASURER FRANK CREAN TOLD ME IN GREAT
DETAIL ABOUT HIS SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON
AND NEW YORK AND WITH SECRETARY SCHULTZ ASST. SECY GREEN AND
OTHERS. HE FELT THAT HE WAS WELL RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON
AND HE APPRECIATED OUR GOVERNMENT' S COOPERATION. HE
EXPRESSED VIEW THAT WHITLAM HAS NOT BEEN SNUBBED.

2. WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE PARLIAMENTARY
CAUCUS VOTE THIS WEEK OF 48 TO 40 IN FAVOR OF
SENATOR WHEELDON AS CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE, RECENTLY ESTABLISHED
BY PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM. SENATOR CROSS, MIDDLE- OF-
THE- ROADER, WAS WHITLAM' S CANDIDATE. WHEELDON HAS
BEEN BITTERLY OUTSPOKEN AGAINST OUR VIETNAM POLICY
AND OUR BASES AND IS ADAMANT AGAINST OMEGA. WHEELDON
VICTORY HAS BEEN PORTRAYED BY PRESS AS A " SWING TO THE
LEFT." I ASKED CREAN WHETHER THIS DID IN FACT
REPRESENT A SWING TO THE LEFT. HE ASSURED ME THAT
IT DID NOT AND ATTRIBUTED WHEELDON' S VICTORY TO HIS
WELL ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN AMONG SENATE AND HOUSE LABOR
MEMBERS SOLICITING VOTES FOR CHAIRMANSHIP. CREAN
SAID, " GOUGH, LANCE, I AND OTHERS WERE CONFIDENT
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THAT CROSS WOULD WIN, AND, UNFORTUNATELY, WE DID NOT ORGANIZE A CAMPAIGN FOR HIM AND THIS ACCOUNTS FOR WHEELDON' S VICTORY." I ASKED CREAN WHETHER I COULD ASSURE WASHINGTON THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO SWING TO THE LEFT AND THAT WHITLAM, BARNARD, CREAN AND OTHER MIDDLE- OF- THE- ROADERS " WILL BE IN COMMAND." HE REPLIED, " YOU CERTAINLY CAN ASSURE WASHINGTON THAT WE WILL BE IN COMMAND." HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT OMEGA IS A BENEFICIAL NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEM WITH NO ADVERSE MILITARY IMPLICATIONS. HE FEELS THAT COMMITTEE, EVEN WITH CHAIRMAN WHEELDON OPPOSING, WILL PROBABLY APPROVE OMEGA.

3. WE WILL HAVE OCCASION TO TALK AGAIN TO CREAN AT A QUITE DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE ON HIS RETURN FROM TOKYO EARLY IN MAY.
RICE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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